

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending with claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 20 being independent.

The title has been amended in response to the Examiner's comments.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22 and 23 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,952,708) in view of Codama (U.S. Patent No. 6,037,712).

Each of independent claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 20 has been amended to recite "wherein at least an edge of said anode or at least an edge of said cathode is covered with at least one of said partition layers." Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 20, and their dependent claims, because neither Yamazaki, Codama, nor any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited anode/cathode structure that is covered by a partition layer.

Yamazaki describes a structure for a pixel portion of a display which may be used in displays that use EL elements. However, as the Examiner admits, Yamazaki does not describe or suggest the structure or configuration of the EL elements. Codama describes an EL display device that includes a first transparent electrode 2, which the Examiner equates to the anode, a spacer 4 and photosensitive film 5, which the Examiner equates to the partition layers, and a second electrode 7, which the Examiner equates to the cathode. The spacer 4 and the photosensitive film 5 are processed to form an overhanging structure over the first transparent electrode 2, as shown in Fig. 1B and discussed at col. 5, lines 5-10. The overhanging structure allows the organic EL film 6 and the second electrode 7 to be formed with improved uniformity (col. 5, lines 12-20). However, as shown in Fig. 1B, this overhanging structure results in neither the spacer 4 nor the photosensitive layer 5 covering any edge of the first transparent electrode 2 or the second electrode 7. Accordingly, the combination of Yamazaki and Codama fails to describe or suggest the claimed partition layer and anode/cathode structure.

For at least these reasons, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 20 and the claims that depend from them.

Dependent claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 21, which depend from independent claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 16, and 20, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Codama and Jones (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,443).

Jones does not remedy the failure of Yamazaki and Codama to describe or suggest the claimed partition layer and anode/cathode structure. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 21 for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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